

Public Safety Coordinating Council

Minutes of the September 6, 2005 Meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Sheriff Larry Campbell
Kendra Brown
Gloria Daniels
Nancy Daniels
Commissioner Ed DePuy
Deputy Chief John Proctor
Argatha Gilmore
April Holloway-Hill
Wanda Hunter
Carl Bennett
Jackie Martin
Charles Smith
Ken Morris
Judge Kathleen Dekker

REPRESENTING:

Leon County Sheriff's Office
Leon County Court Administration
Leon County Probation Department
Public Defender's Office
Leon County Commissioner
Tallahassee Police Department
Tallahassee Police Department
Leon County Court Administration
Leon County Pre-Trial Release
Leon County Sheriff's Office
Leon County Sheriff's Office
Citizens' Task Force
Leon County Administration
Circuit Court

Meeting came to order at 4:08 P.M.

ISSUES REVIEWED:

- I. Approval of Minutes from June 29, 2005 Meeting** – After reviewing the minutes from June 29, 2005, Chairman DePuy requested that the quarterly reports required of Team Child and Mothers in Crisis be reviewed by the PSCC.

Charles Smith, of the Citizens' Task Force, requested a clarification of the PSCC's fiduciary powers relating to Mothers in Crisis and Team Child. Chairman DePuy reminded the PSCC that the June 29, 2005 meeting was a special meeting at the request of the BOCC. At the BOCC's annual budget workshop on June 14, 2005, the BOCC requested that the PSCC consider the funding requests of Mothers in Crisis and Team Child, and make a recommendation to the BOCC.

Public Defender Nancy Daniels motioned, seconded by Deputy Chief John Proctor, to accept the minutes from June 29, 2005.

- II. Update on the SCRAM Alcohol Monitoring System** – Gloria Daniels provided the PSCC with an update on the SCRAM Alcohol Monitoring System. The pilot program will begin using the SCRAM units on October 1, 2005, utilizing an inmate trust fund through the Sheriff's Office. One staff person will be designated for the three month pilot program to oversee the use of the five SCRAM units.

Judge Dekker asked the Council who this pilot program would ideally serve. Gloria Daniels explained that while there is no ideal person targeted, the pilot program will be used for pre-trial release offenders and sentencing would be at the discretion of judges.

Judge Dekker supported the pilot program because it will not require participants to constantly travel to a testing site. Chairman DePuy requested Gloria Daniels to provide the PSCC with a final report once the pilot program has been completed.

- III. Consideration of the re-establishment of the "Pity Committee"** – Ken Morris introduced the item and explained that the "Pity Committee," also referred to as the "Bond Review Committee," was designed to make recommendations regarding the release of specific offenders as a means to alleviate jail crowding. In 2001, PSCC did not recommend the re-institution of the Bond Committee. Instead, the PSCC recommended that the Detention Review Coordinator fulfill the role of working with designees of the Public Defender and the State Attorney to identify inmates that may be suitable for pre-trial release, bond review, alternatives to incarceration, or expedited disposition.

April Holloway-Hill, the Leon County Detention Review Coordinator, made a brief presentation about her official duties. Nancy Daniels identified a pro and a con for the committee. The pro is that a judge is part of the committee and makes an immediate decision. The con is that it is much more difficult to coordinate a committee because of the number of court divisions in today's organizational structure.

Judge Dekker suggested a committee for each division and Nancy Daniels followed by saying that judges and public defenders for each division already meet regularly so it would not be very difficult to implement. Judge

Dekker thought it would be helpful if the Detention Review Coordinator could identify the number of people in jail by each court division.

Sheriff Campbell made a motion, seconded by Deputy Chief Proctor, not to re-establish the "Pity Committee" and allow the Detention Review Coordinator to continue to identify and recommend offenders for pre-trial release, bond review, alternatives to incarceration, or expedited disposition.

Sheriff Campbell reminded the Council that he had sat on "Pity Committees" in the past and feels that they mismanage jail population. Sheriff Campbell prefers to have one professional staff person, such as the Detention Review Coordinator, responsible for recommending offenders to alternative programs and pre-trial release.

The PSCC approved the motion not to re-establish the "Pity Committee."

- IV Discussion of the August 30, 2005 Jail Workshop** – Chairman DePuy clarified statements made at the workshop regarding the increased participation of the State Attorney's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department at PSCC meetings. Chairman DePuy also informed the PSCC that he personally called and requested State Attorney William Meggs to attend PSCC meetings but Mr. Meggs declined.

Mr. Charles Smith made a motion for the PSCC to write a letter to Mr. Meggs respectfully requesting his attendance at PSCC meetings. Despite a second to the motion, Mr. Smith later withdrew his motion after Council discussion.

- IV. Other Business-** Chairman DePuy scheduled the next PSCC meeting for Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 4:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers. Jeff Bohannon, Superintendent of the Escambia County Road Prison, will be the guest speaker to discuss the organizational, operating, budgeting, and vocational aspects of a county farm/road program.

Deputy Chief Proctor of the Tallahassee Police Department brought up the BOCC's discussion of "petty arrests" at the Board workshop. Mr. Proctor used the example of the Party Patrol as a service demanded by the community. Therefore, elected and appointed officials initiated the Party

Patrol to reflect the values of the community. He also wanted to be very clear that the Party Patrol often issues notices-to-appear but there are legal restrictions on neglecting to arrest intoxicated persons who could be a danger to themselves or others.

With the support of the Sheriff, Public Defender Daniels asked the PSCC to continue to make every effort to reduce the mental health population in the jail. Kendra Brown, the Leon County Mental Health Coordinator, complimented TPD for taking Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) courses to help identify mentally ill people in order to appropriately place them in a mental health facility. Several LCSO officers have participated in the CIT courses and additional courses will be targeted toward LCSO.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 P.M.